

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/010992

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl⁷ H01M8/00, H01M8/04, H02J3/00, H02J3/46, H02J3/38

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ H01M8/00, H01M8/04, H02J3/00, H02J3/46, H02J3/38, F02G5/04

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2004

Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2004 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2004

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|
| A | JP 2002-352834 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), 06 December, 2002 (06.12.02), Claim 9; Par. Nos. [0027], [0060] to [0063]; Fig. 4 (Family: none) | 1-24 |
| E, A | JP 2004-278510 A (Osaka Gas Co., Ltd.), 07 October, 2004 (07.10.04), Par. Nos. [0026], [0139], [0145] to [0152]; Figs. 26, 27 (Family: none) | 1-24 |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 October, 2004 (25.10.04)

Date of mailing of the international search report

09 November, 2004 (09.11.04)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|
| E, A | JP 2004-213970 A (Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd.), 29 July, 2004 (29.07.04), Claims 5, 6; Par. Nos. [0021] to [0023] (Family: none) | 3-10, 15-21 |
| A | JP 2003-61245 A (Osaka Gas Co., Ltd.), 28 February, 2003 (28.02.03), Claim 4; Par. Nos. [0018], [0019], [0024]; Fig. 3 (Family: none) | 1-24 |